

H. Res. 561

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

October 5, 1994.

Whereas Northern Ireland has for many years been riven by violence;

Whereas this cycle of violence and death has embittered and further separated the people of both great traditions on the island of Ireland, so that reconciliation between them has been made more difficult;

Whereas the Irish and British Governments have made joint efforts pursuant to the Anglo Irish Agreement of 1985 and 3-stranded talks between and among the constitutional parties of the north and the 2 governments to find political solutions to this situation that would win the support of the majority of the people of Ireland, North and South;

Whereas the 2 governments have made further efforts in the Downing Street Declaration of 1993 to establish principles under which such a political settlement could be negotiated among all the parties in Northern Ireland that renounce the use of violence;

Whereas, after a period of internal debate and consideration, the Irish Republican Army announced on August 31, 1994, a complete cessation of military operations and de-

clared its willingness to participate in political talks with other parties in Northern Ireland and the 2 governments;

Whereas the Irish Republican Army has kept its pledge to end military operations since that time;

Whereas other loyalist and nationalist paramilitary organizations have not declared their intention to end the use of military operations and have in fact continued attacks;

Whereas the policy of the United States has consistently supported the end of military operations and provided strong diplomatic and material support for peace and reconciliation throughout the island of Ireland, and particularly through annual appropriations to the International Fund for Ireland;

Whereas the Congress of the United States has played a role of support for this Fund and for the efforts of the 2 governments and of courageous leaders of nonviolence from both traditions in Northern Ireland such as John Hume, whose inspiration and dogged determination helped convince the Irish Republican Army to lay down its arms;

Whereas the announcement of the Irish Republican Army ceasefire and the determination of the 2 governments to offer a framework for comprehensive political dialogue between all the political parties in Northern Ireland now offer an historic climate for genuine peace and reconciliation in all of Ireland; and

Whereas the International Fund for Ireland and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation at this critical moment can play a key role in building a public-private partnership in support of the peace process in Northern Ireland, such as through an Overseas Private Investment Cor-

poration equity fund for the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) commends the British and Irish Govern-
3 ments for the steps they have taken and are taking
4 to encourage and facilitate all-party talks leading to
5 a lasting political settlement acceptable to, and rati-
6 fied by, the people of Ireland, north and south;

7 (2) urges the 2 governments to include all par-
8 ties that renounce violence into such talks as soon
9 as possible;

10 (3) hails the complete and permanent cessation
11 of Irish Republican Army military operations as an
12 essential step to such a settlement;

13 (4) calls upon all other paramilitary organiza-
14 tions in Northern Ireland similarly to cease the em-
15 ployment of violence;

16 (5) expresses strong support for United States
17 economic development programs such as the Inter-
18 national Fund for Ireland and the Overseas Private
19 Investment Corporation that can contribute to a cli-
20 mate of economic development in which peace, rec-
21 onciliation, and justice become achievable goals for
22 all in Northern Ireland; and

- 1 (6) urges the President to take appropriate
- 2 steps to support the peace process in Northern Ire-
- 3 land through such programs.

Attest:

Clerk.